

The Violence Against Women Act, or VAWA, was originally passed in 1994, and reauthorized in 2000, both times by overwhelming bipartisan majorities. It created our current framework for a comprehensive, coordinated response to domestic violence, stalking and sexual assault. Before VAWA, domestic violence was too often considered to be a 'family matter' to which the police turned a blind eye. There were no Federal penalties for stalking, domestic violence or violating a protection order. And in sexual assault cases, a victim's past sexual history was considered a legitimate subject for the defense to bring up in the courtroom. All of these basic considerations became law as a result of VAWA.

As a result of this landmark legislation millions of dollars in grants are distributed to States and local communities to put these cost effective programs into practice. The first VAWA, authorized in 1994, cost \$15.50 per woman and has been estimated to save \$159 per woman, totaling a savings of nearly \$14.8 billion since its creation in averted costs of victimization. VAWA programs have helped train thousands of law enforcement officers, prosecutors, court officials and victim advocates to respond effectively to domestic violence. In the first five years after VAWA became law, intimate partner violence dropped significantly, and by 2002, violent crimes against women were less than half of what they were in 1993. This is a record of which we can be very proud.

On a related note, I am proud to have my name associated with a law that has done a great deal to make families safer, the Domestic Violence Gun Ban. This law prohibits those convicted of a crime involving domestic violence—whether a felony or a misdemeanor—from acquiring or possessing a gun. Research shows that the presence of a gun in a household where a woman is battered increases the chances of her death significantly: often, the only difference between a battered woman and a dead woman is the presence of a gun. Since many abusers do not get convicted of felonies, this law has helped to keep guns out of the hands of thousands of people who are dangerous to their partners and families. Since its passage this law has prevented the sale of almost 30,000 guns, potentially saving countless lives.

We cannot mark the passage of this landmark legislation without making mention of two particular champions in the campaign to stop violence against women. Our friend and former colleague Senator Paul Wellstone and his wife Sheila were tireless fighters against domestic violence. The Sheila Wellstone Institute, in the first year of its existence, has been at the forefront of the movement to institute effective policies to stop violence against women and children. On this anniversary we should remember their wonderful work, and commit to finishing it.

We still have much more to do. Even today, approximately 4.9 million inti-

mate partner rapes and physical assaults are perpetrated against U.S. women annually and nearly one in every four women experiences at least one physical assault by a partner. When I think about my legislative agenda I look to my family: my three daughters and son, and my ten grandchildren. The thought that a woman could be the subject of abuse is repulsive. Domestic violence doesn't just happen to women; it happens to families. That is why we must continue to fund programs to help victims, enforce laws protecting women, and teach respect and nonviolent problem-solving to our children. We need to make this country a place where women and children are safe, whether walking down a city street or in their own homes. I hope that my colleagues will join me in making this goal a reality.

#### FUNDING FOR HURRICANE DAMAGE

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the letter from Lieutenant General Steven Blum, Chief of the National Guard Bureau to me regarding funding for hurricane damage repair for National Guard facilities in Florida be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU,  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF,  
Arlington, VA, September 14, 2004.

Hon. BILL NELSON,  
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR NELSON: Major General Doug Burnett, The Adjutant General of Florida, has identified approximately \$5 million of repairs to Florida National Guard facilities which were damaged by the recent hurricanes.

As I indicated to General Burnett and reiterate to you, I am committed to immediately providing sufficient funding from the National Guard Bureau to accomplish the necessary repairs. I would surmise that most, if not all, the required work will be able to be accomplished with National Guard Operations and Maintenance funding and within my authority to allocate. However, if there are instances where reprogramming will require Congressional approval, I will ask for your assistance in expediting that action.

Thank you for your continued support of our National Guard. The 21st Century Minutemen of the Florida National Guard are proving themselves through their stellar actions both in the state and abroad.

Sincerely,

H. STEVEN BLUM,  
Lieutenant General, U.S. Army, Chief,  
National Guard Bureau.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### SUSANNA GOODIN

• Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I take this time to congratulate Susanna Goodin for being honored with the Wyoming Professor of the Year Award in 2003.

This recognition represents the culmination of a great deal of hard work

and determined effort. It recognizes her outstanding dedication to teaching and exceptional commitment to her students. She should be very proud of this honor.

Now more than ever before, Wyoming needs the skills and talents of college professors like Susanna Goodin. She understands the importance of a well-rounded college education for students if we are to produce the next generation of our State's and our Nation's leaders. We are very grateful for all she does to make a difference. Her efforts are greatly appreciated.

Congratulations again to one of Wyoming's special citizens. Diana joins in sending our best wishes.●

##### CAPTAIN KRISTINE GEDDINGS

• Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I rise to recognize a dedicated patriot, sailor, wife and mother: CAPT Kristine Geddings, U.S. Navy. I had the privilege of getting to know Captain Geddings when she served in my office on Capitol Hill as a legislative fellow, and I have continued to follow her career. I am pleased to offer this tribute to her achievements.

Before joining the Navy, this remarkable lady spent 15 years as a housewife and mother. As her daughter entered high school, and having gained her Bachelor of Science degree at the University of North Florida, Captain Geddings decided upon a Naval Career, and applied to and was accepted into Officer Candidate School at Newport, RI. At the age of 34, she was one of the oldest cadets to ever graduate from OCS, yet she met all the qualifications, including physical requirements, that were designed for cadets closer to the age of her daughter.

By the time her granddaughter Amber commences sixth grade this fall, Captain Geddings will have retired from active duty after 23 years of service in the United States Navy. Captain Geddings has served the Nation and the Navy faithfully and well over these many years. Her personal leadership, intelligence, stewardship, and compassionate commitment to her sailors and the United States Navy mark a career most worthy of our recognition.

Captain Geddings' initial assignment was to Patrol Squadron Thirty, Naval Air Station, Jacksonville, FL, where she served both as personnel and legal officer. She next reported to Naval Management Engineering Center, Detachment Jacksonville as a Management Analyst and team leader. During this tour, she completed her Master of Arts in Administration through Central Michigan University.

Next, she was assigned to Navy Recruiting District, Jacksonville, FL, where she took on the most challenging assignment in recruiting, the Enlisted Programs Officer. Seeking the next most challenging job in recruiting, she accepted the job of executive officer of the recruiting station in New Orleans, LA. Finally, in 1998, Captain